

## **Kakaako opposition permeated community**

I appreciate [C. Richard Fassler's column](#) in last Sunday's Insight section regarding Kakaako Makai. Although Mr. Fassler makes some interesting points, the issue is more complicated than a simple scorecard of winners and losers.

As one of the few people who attended and testified at the early Hawaii Community Development Authority board meetings on this issue, it became apparent that a public policy question required an answer. Should a semi-governmental agency be allowed to sell public land in fee for private development?

Fassler opines that a small group of "veteran protesters" stopped the project. Yes, some of the concerned citizens had been involved in past development issues; however, at every rally or meeting or hearing, I met people who had never done anything like this before. They just felt strongly that the last undeveloped shoreline on South Oahu should remain open space.

Fassler also supports his viewpoint by stating that the Manoa Neighborhood Board voted down a resolution intended to stop the A&B project.

In fact, Manoa was one of five neighborhood boards presented with this resolution. Four of the five adopted some version of it, indicating more support than opposition.

The residents of the area are concerned that Kakaako is quickly becoming overdeveloped and its infrastructure stressed beyond capability. They appealed to the Legislature to stop this project and answer the above public policy question. Winners and losers? At least our future generations will have a shoreline to enjoy.

**Rep. Anne Stevens**

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